

RED HORSE triple deployment

By 1st Lt. Allen Herriage
AWFC Public Affairs

The 820th RED HORSE Squadron doesn't wait long after the holidays to get back to work. Nellis' combat engineering team is pulling triple duty this month by deploying to St. Lucia, Guatemala and Kuwait at the same time.

The groups going south are supporting the 12th Air Force's participation in U.S. Southern Command's New Horizons exercises, which include repairing roads and bridges, repairing or building schools, medical clinics and other public facilities.

The St. Lucia crew will join Marines from the 8th Engineering Support Battalion at Camp Lejeune, N.C., to form Joint Task Force Piton. The JTF has two major construction projects: build a two-story barracks that will be used for future exercises by the Navy, and repair an aging community center.

"The work we're doing down there is good for several reasons," said Maj. Doug Hardman, JTF Piton commander. "We're helping out our Navy brethren, we're helping the people of St. Lucia and while we do this, we increase our readiness for the wartime RED HORSE mission." All of the work will occur in and around the capital

city of Castries on the north end of the island.

RED HORSE members in Guatemala will be part of JTF Aurora, a joint Army-Air Force effort to build five schools and drill several wells around the city of Flores. This is a return trip for some RED HORSE members. "I've been deployed to Guatemala with the Horse once before," said Airman 1st Class Donald Maxfield. "While doing the work down there, you're

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**Airman 1st Class Donald Maxfield
820th RED HORSE Sq.**

able to see that you're making their lives better-- that's what I enjoy." The Army contingent will be lead by the 65th Regional Support Command out of San Juan, Puerto Rico.

On the other side of the world, RED HORSE members will be working on two

major projects at Al Jabar Air Base, Kuwait. "We're building a dining facility and a supply warehouse," said Capt. Oscar Bentacourt, project officer in charge. This project is a bit more involved than the folks going to Kuwait expected.

"Up until our site visit, we thought we were only building a supply warehouse. Once there, it became apparent that RED HORSE would be the best bet for the dining facility that needed to be built also," said Capt. Bentacourt. "It extends our time away, but the troops have maintained a positive attitude and are ready to tackle the project," he added.

"I am extremely proud of the way our personnel have stepped up to the plate to meet the challenge of an unplanned, short notice tasking for the project at Al Jabar Air Base," said Lt. Col. Frank Miles, 820th RED HORSE deputy commander.

"The construction of the dining facility is a high priority for the secretary of the Air Force, and we are extremely proud to play a role in improving conditions for the men and women in Kuwait supporting Operation Southern Watch."



Above, when the 820th RED HORSE deploys they like to be self-sustaining, bringing forklifts, an earth-moving mini-caterpillar, a crane and even a small concrete factory with them. (Photo by 1st Lt. Alan Herriage)

Below, The RED HORSE stands proudly in front of the squadron. It represents the strength and independence of the men and women of the 820th RH. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Jim Bianchi)



Above, the 820th RED HORSE equipment convoy pulls out for the ship that will take it to St. Lucia. (Photo by 1st Lt. Alan Herriage)

Left, Airman David Burum prepares a packing container for deployment to St. Lucia. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Jim Bianchi)



The 820th RED HORSE Squadron is deploying to Kuwait, map at left; St. Lucia, above, and Guatemala, above right. The 820th RH will assist both the host nations and our sister services in providing construction and repair of facilities. The deployments will last from one to three months.



Above, Airman 1st Class Bartolo Estrada checks a miter saw before packing it in the container for shipment. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Jim Bianchi)



Below, Airman 1st Class Donald Maxfield maneuvers a forklift to load palets on the truck. All the equipment will be shipped via truck, ship and air to the deployed locations. (Photo by 1st Lt. Alan Herriage)

